

Three Stirring Witnesses 2 Peter ch 1:18-21
When I was a kid my Daddy would let us play in a wooded area near our home. When we first started playing down there it was covered with vines and brush that needed to be cleared off. Dad would take his machete he brought back from Vietnam and swing it back and forth clearing out an area for us to play. When I ran across these verses my service could be pictured by that scene of my Dad chopping and cutting through a dense forest. I started out chopping and hacking with a lot of vigor. But soon growing tired and wondering where am I going. It was right here, were it all opened up as if I had chopped my way thru to find myself on a high mountain with a birds eye view! A view of Christ like I'd never seen him before. Peter here is in many years but wanting to stir up the minds of readers by calling witness to

I. The Witness of The Apostles vs 16

A. The first stirring witness of the Lord Jesus that is called to stand is the Apostles. The Sent ones, Gods appointed testimonies. As Peter begins his testimony he tells of that which is not a part of his testi-

B. **Fabricated Tales** (vs 16) - Peter, Paul, Jude, John all dealt in their writings w/ false teachers, bringing cleverly disguised tales. These cleverly disguised fables found all thru much extrabiblical Hebrew literature, like the Talmud. Much came from the years spent in exile, when infested

- Babylon. They picked up wild mysticism + superstitions. Watching a video concerning Passover... egg on table represented fertility. Fables were present in early church as well. Gnostics saying Jesus was an apparition, Indicators - With their works righteousness false God.

We have our own currently divided... Gospel of Judas, the ^{Joe Smith} ^{Divine} Code, Mormon claims God came from planet near Kolob; Gold Tabled Christian Science (neither Christian nor science) JW's in us the return of Christ, Eastern Mysticism "The Secret" + Century Prayer; Peters says No!

C. First-hand Testimony - Peter begins to give his eye-witness testimony. He relates what was seen on the mount of Transfiguration, one of the most glorious moments in history... The Kingdom Revealed! We Saw it! I was there! I heard it. Peter steps down.. John called to the witness stand, John 1:1-3a. We handled his flesh, seen him w my very eyes. Thomas comes to the stand - cl placed my finger in to the wounds my hand to his side. Next the Apostle Paul cl was a persecutor of the church, then on road to Damascus.. Light outshined the noon day sun!... Islam has its share of changed lives. A many a person has experienced great moral reform all kinds of experiences. Fella at work believes he is saved... tongue moved up & down. We believe the first hand witness of the Apostles. Eph 2:20

II. The Witness of the Almighty

A. The next stirring witness concerning the reality of Christ is an even stronger witness yet. The trustworthiness of a witness is based upon their position, track record. Let's call God of them Supreme

B. The Voice of the Almighty - cl have traced thru the old testament, and cl have not found one place where the voice of rang from the heavens to more than one person (w/exception of the king of Israel) But 3 times in the life + ministry of the Lord Jesus, God rolled back the curtain of heaven and allowed his voice to ring out for all to hear.

1 John 1:1-3 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you...

Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

.....supreme creator, boundless in power, perfect in holiness, shining in glory.

Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 17:5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

John 12:28 (Jesus said) Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

John 12:30 Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.

Psalms 138:2 ...for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

ministry, and before he entered into His suffering at Calvary when his earthly ministry was drawing to a close.

Also as Peter recalls here in our text God's voice was heard on the mount of Transfiguration in the midst of Jesus ministry, it's one thing for people to speak on your behalf

But it another thing altogether when God speaks up.
Folks at Gethsemane said Well! I

C. The Vindication of the Almighty - But what did God say? What was the testimony of the Almighty God? Christ made some bold claims concerning who he was. He made some daring statements in His day. What would God say about it? Most folks around Jesus didn't like what he was saying. How does God feel about it? Matthew 3:17 + Matt 17:5 God was heard to say

That's my boy, I'm happy w/ Him. You ought to listen to Him. In this one statement God the Father authenticates the deity of Christ (My Son) the impeccability of Christ (well pleased) and the authority of Christ (Hear Him). The Last time was in John 12:38. Meaning not only has God's name been glorified in the past but beyond this form of suffering it will be glorified again. Jesus goes on to say that this voice ^{vs 30}

III. The Witness of All-Scripture

A. We have one more witness to call to the stand. You may be thinking who else could possibly call after God. *Ps 138:2

The testimony of the Old Testament The Word of God!

B. The Exaltation of God's Word - Listen to what Peter says in vs 19a. He is saying this in light of the experience that was lived out on the Mt. of Transfiguration Vincent puts it this way "We have the word of Prophets as a

surer conformation of God's truth than what we saw ourselves" The OT testimony is more convincing than even the voice heard at the Mt. of Transfiguration. Peter! I wasn't there with you on hly Mt. I didn't hear the voice of God." Peter responds by saying "That Bible you hold in your hand is more trustworthy than the voice of God thundering from the heaven's, Peter is speaking to disciples that may have never seen Christ in person. Peter says as long as you have the Scriptures you don't need a momentary voice from heaven! Is 40:8. There's hope.

C. The Inspiration of God's Word. - Why can we trust our Bibles? Read vs 30. Catholic Church would have you believe you can't read your Bible. But notice what is said. VS 30 Not the reader but the prophet could not interpret on his own. Leads right into vs 31. After the Bible writers did not understand what they were writing, but the Holy Ghost guided them men of God as they wrote. Can you imagine what David thought PS 22 after it was penned? Hands & feet pierced? (written hundreds of years before crucifixion invents) Or Is when Is 53 completed: Wounded for our transgressions...? Written 600 years before Christ's death and it is as though you are standing at the foot of Cross. That what will make the daystar rise in your heart. The inspiration of the word of God stirs us ^{to Christ} by pointing

IV Closing. This message has been in the making for several years. God blessed me with it. Denominationally I was wanting to preach it. But a year later driving down road God gave me the outline. I came home and shaped it with my D. P. Mom Tom D. ... Father ... She had spent

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our
God shall stand for ever.